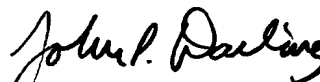


REMARKS

Upon entry of this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1-24 are pending, claims 2 and 4-10 having been amended and claims 11-24 having been added. Prompt examination and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP



JOHN D. DARLING
Reg. No. 44482
Tel. No. (703) 905-2045
Fax No. (703) 905-2500
Customer No. 00909

Date: June 24, 2004

P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000